

December 17, 2008

Chantel Markel, Chair  
Quality Improvement Committee  
Washington County, Utah

Re: QIC recommendations

Dear Chantel,

The State Quality Improvement Committee received your letter in regards to setting up a mentoring program for youth who are transitioning out of foster care to independent living. We reviewed your letter in our State QIC meeting on October 27, 2008. The State QIC feels as if these youth are vulnerable and could benefit from additional services.

As a committee we discussed some possible resources for these identified youth:

Jane Lewis, State Program Administrator for the Transition to Adult Living (TAL) program and Mike Beacco, Southwest Region TAL coordinator are currently working on creating a mentoring program for youth transitioning out of foster care. They are looking at the Youth Mentor Project in SLC as a model. Jane and Mike welcome your input and coordination on any upcoming mentoring programs.

-Youth Mentoring Project – based out of Salt Lake City. This program matches youth who have been in foster care with an adult mentor or family. The mentor is available to help the youth with essential adult life skills and day-to-day issues. This program is grant funded through the State Office of Education with their at risk youth funding.

-Here is the website information dedicated to this program:  
<http://friendsandmentors.blogspot.com>

-The administrators of this program can also be contacted at [youthmentor@gmail.com](mailto:youthmentor@gmail.com). The contacts are Dorothy Dart and Marianne Brough.

You also proposed a monthly stipend for those participating in a mentoring program. Unfortunately, due to the recent budget crisis this will not be an option at this point. The Youth Mentor Project may be able to assist with ideas as to how to be successful without the funding based on the fact they are a volunteer only program.

As always, we appreciate your support and willingness to examine the child welfare system in Utah and how it can be approved.

Sincerely,

Kerri Burns  
Community Development Manager  
Division of Child and Family Services

Cc: Jane Lewis